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EOC Spot Report Update #9: Region 6, Fire at International Terminal Corporation, Deer Park, TX (NRC# 1240304)

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of March 24, 2019 09:45 EDT

Overview: On March 17th, Region 6 was notified about the fire at International Terminal Corporation (ITC) in Deer Park, Houston TX. A tank containing naptha caught fire. The total capacity of the tank is 80,000 barrels. The PRP initiated sampling of all brands of foam used during the response to determine if any contained PFOS and PFOA. Water sampling operations are ongoing with additional sampling for PFOS and PFOA and other contaminants. Booming operations continue in the areas of Tucker and Buffalo Bayous.

The fire that ignited in the afternoon hours of March 22nd, spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch on Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to fight the fire. Local media reported in the afternoon of March 23rd the fire was extinguished but reignition is still an ongoing threat. No "shelter in place" is in effect at this time.

ITC will again attempt to start pumping product out of compromised tanks into an empty tank within another tank farm. There is no remediation actions taking place on the ship channel at night, but operations continued at night in the ditch area.

EPA handheld air monitoring continues at 50 locations located in residential areas downwind of the ship channel. Results were reported above the detection limit at five locations for VOCs and five locations for benzene.

The TAGA air sampling results found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results found exceedances of the short-term AMCV for benzene.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is on scene. The PRP has contracted with an incident management team to help manage the incident. The contractor mobilized additional resources (skimmers, vac trucks, and frac tanks) to conduct cleanup operations at the Tucker and Buffalo Bayou. USCG personnel are

participating in Unified Command, focusing on water operations in Tucker Bayou (booming and skimming of foam).

EPA Actions: EPA and START mobilized on March 17th and entered Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services Department (HCPCS), and ITC. There are currently 3 Region 6 OSCs on scene.

EPA opened a Federal Project Number for \$50,000 to fund assistance received from NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator.

Media Interest: High

<https://www.houstonpress.com/news/itc-reports-fires-are-out-parts-of-ship-channel-remain-closed-11262234>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed
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